because of persistent pressure on balance of payments, (iii) wage-price spiral in many industries leading to cost-push inflation, in addition to demand-pull inflation, and (iv) the consequent inflationary expectations in the economy. A part from the underlying inflationary pressure arising from macro-economic imbalances, the substantial increase in prices is also attributed to sharp increases in procurement prices of agricultural commodities, upward revision of administered prices of petroleum products and levy sugar, increase in transportation and handling costs and existence of imperfect market structures for most of the commodities.

(c) The Government have adopted a multi-pronged strategy to contain the rise in prices. This includes a strict fiscal discipline, check on expansion of money supply, more effective management of supply and demand of essential commodities, streamlining of the public distribution system and a strict action against hoarders and profiteers. Besides the above measures, the Government have also introduced a number of structural policy reforms in the spheres of trade, industrial, monetary and fiscal policies. These measures are expected to control inflation and bring about a reasonable price stability in future.

Compensation Paid by PNB to Employees in Dacoity Cases

6992. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of Punjab National Bank died while resisting bank dacoities in their banks in Punjab, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh during 1991, till date;

(b) whether any compensation is paid to the families of such employees by the bank;

(c) if so, the rank-wise details of the employees who have been paid such compensation by the bank since January, 1991;

(d) whether there are any cases where compensation has been paid to the families though the person (s) who did not die while resisting dacoity;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Punjab National Bank has informed that none of its employees has been killed while resisting bank robberies in its branches in Punjab, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh since 1st January, 1991 till 7th September,1991.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) Two officials of the bank were killed on 3.8.91 by militants at their residences at Ludhiana. Bank has paid compensation of Rs. 1 lakh to the families of each of the officials.

Change in List of Items Allowed to Import Under OGL

6993. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made some changes in the list of items allowed to be imported under Open General Licence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Government have made some changes in the list of items allowed to be imported under Open General Licence vide Public Notice No. 196/ITC (PN)/90-93 dated 14.8.1991, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

[*Translation*]

Candidates in Tenth Lok Sabha Elections

6994. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of candidates in the last Lok Sabha elections party-wise and independents;

(b) the number of candidates elected and the number of those who lost their deposits, party-wise; and

(c) the party-wise percentage of votes polled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.